

St Anthony of Padua, Oxford

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Presbytery and office: 01865 762964 | Parish priest: 07484 271876 | Email: stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk

16th Sunday of Ordinary Time.

18th July 2021

Parish Priest: Fr Mark Odion, MSP Email: fr.mark.odion@rcaob.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr John Amana Okeme, MSP Email fr.john.amana.okeme@rcaob.org.uk

The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216



SUNDAY REFLECTION: IN SEARCH OF SHEPHERDS

The Jewish populace were searching for a leader (a Messiah) who would lead them to throw off the Roman yoke once and for all. Their current leaders had failed them. Where they were not active collaborators with the Romans (like the Herods), they were piling more oppression on the people (like the priests, the scribes, and the Pharisees) in the name of religion.

As a result, whenever any charismatic figure appeared on the landscape, the people flocked to him, hoping that he would be the Messiah to lead them in the ultimate showdown with their oppressors, both local and foreign. That was how they flocked to John the Baptist.

But he told them in no uncertain terms that he was not the Messiah they were looking for. Instead, he pointed to someone else as the long-awaited Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. Pronto, the people flocked to him. They followed him everywhere. Even when he wanted to have a quiet retreat with his apostles, the people sought him out, as we read in today's Gospel passage. So great was

their need. They were like sheep in desperate need of a shepherd. Jesus would respond to their need, though not in the way that they expected. He would not lead them in any campaign against the Romans. But he would lead them in a campaign against an even more formidable foe, Satan. If they succeeded in overcoming that particular enemy, getting rid of the Romans and their local oppressors would be an even easier task, although it would take time. Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He invites us to follow the example of love that he has given us. Let us, therefore, love one another as the Lord has loved us.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY: Social friendship.

We pray that, in social, economic, and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

NEW NOTICES:

SYRO-MALABAR CHAPLAINCY

We welcome the Syro-Malabar Community back to the parish to begin their celebration. The Chaplaincy will be having their first Mass here at St Anthony's after the lockdown on Sunday 18th July at 5:00pm.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND: There will be a second collection for the training of priests for the Missionary Society of St Paul (MSP). Please give generously.

BAPTISM SATURDAY 24th July: Please remember baby Leo in your prayers as we welcome him into our parish community next weekend. Please also pray for his parents, Jonathan and Valerie as they bring him up in the Catholic faith.

ALTAR SERVERS: Fr Mark welcomes back any altar servers who want to serve from next weekend (24th/25th July).

GIFT AID: Gift aid generates an additional 25% of the donations you make to the parish, helping the parish to generate more funds. We are appealing to parishioners who pay tax to please consider gift aiding their donations to the parish. If you are interested in gift aiding your donations to the parish or setting up a Standing Order into the parish account or both, the forms are available in the porch as you leave the church.

TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD.

- **Masses** are public and live-streamed at the times below.
- Private prayer with **exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** 5:45 – 6:15 pm on Saturday
- **Confessions** can be arranged by appointment or between 5:45 – 6:15 pm on Saturday.
- **The rosary** will be recited after the 9:00am Mass if numbers allow and will be live streamed.

Date	Time	Day	Intention
Saturday 17 th July	9:00 am	St Thomas	Joe Fogarty RIP*
	6:30 pm	Vigil Mass	Bishop Albert Ayinde Fasina RIP*
Sunday 18 th July	8:30 am	15 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Memorial Mass for Jose and Monserrat Nuique*
	10:00 am		For the intentions of Stella Igweh and her family*
Monday 19 th July	9:00 am	Feria in Ordinary time	People of the Parish
	6.30pm		Joe Fogarty RIP*
Tuesday 20 th July	9:00 am	Feria in Ordinary time	Barbara O’Neill’s intention*
	6.30pm		Joe Fogarty RIP*
Wednesday 21 st July	9:00 am	Feria in Ordinary time	Joe Fogarty RIP*
	6:30 pm		Eileen McNally RIP (First anniversary)*
Thursday 22 nd July	9:00 am	St Mary Magdalene	Bridget Kemp RIP*
	6:30 pm		Barbara O’Neill’s intention*
Friday 23 rd July	9:00 am	St Bridget	Mrs Stanton RIP*
	6:30 pm		Chelsea Tiernan’s intention*
Saturday 17 th July	9:00 am	Feria in ordinary time	Kathleen Leonard RIP*
	6:30 pm	Vigil Mass	Sean Gregory RIP*
Sunday 18 th July	08:30 am	16 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	People of the Parish
	10:00am		Kathleen Leonard RIP*

Coronavirus matters:

Latest guidance from the Catholic Bishop’s Conference (as of 15th May 2021).

The important points for church use are summarised:

**NO FURTHER CHANGES ARE ANTICIPATED UNTIL
AFTER JULY 19TH AT THE EARLIEST.
WE ARE WAITING FOR DIRECTIONS
FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE**

NOT CHANGED: Hand sanitiser still needed at entrance and exit, face coverings still to be worn, church still to have adequate ventilation, social distancing still needs to be respected, holy water fonts remain unfilled, still no congregational singing allowed, no sign of peace, stewards remain necessary for busy Masses and track and trace system still needed.

CHANGES:

- Church cleaning can be reduced to daily, other than for very frequent touch points.
- Statues can be touched but not kissed.
- Incense can be used.
- No need for readers to sanitise at the lectern (although touching of the lectionary should be limited).
- Bidding prayers can be reintroduced to Mass.
- The offertory procession can be reintroduced (after hand sanitising).
- Holy Communion remains of one kind only, but the priest can now say “Body of Christ” to each communicant, and we can reply “Amen”.
- Home visits now allowed by priests and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist (Covid precautions still apply during visits).

Mass intentions or the names of those for whom you would like us to pray should be sent to the Parish Office address by email or phone (01865 762964 or 07484 271876) by 10am Sunday one full week in advance for guaranteed inclusion.

Please pray for the sick and housebound of the parish: Ann Ashfield, Fr John Baggley, Pat Hodgson, Elizabeth Johnson, Frank and Helen Kennedy, Margaret Wipp and Maureen O’Sullivan.

Please pray for those who have recently died ... Elise Sikaping and Roddy McNally.

... and for those whose anniversaries occur in July: Donald Holifield, Billy Mundesley, Eileen McNally, Billy Munnely, Bob and Peggy Clarke.

Memorial list: If you would like a deceased family member or friend to be remembered in the bulletin during the month of the anniversary of their death please email their name and date of death (day and month) to stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk.

Please contact the office with the names of those to be included whose deaths occurred in the month of July.

Live streaming of public masses. Because St Anthony’s is now streaming all masses, altar servers, Eucharistic ministers and readers are required to sign a consent form allowing their images to be broadcast.

Food bank donations can now be brought to church at either of the public weekend Masses and placed in the box at the back of church. Any non-perishable goods are welcome, especially tea, coffee, sugar, pasta, rice and tinned vegetables and fruit. The pandemic continues to have an impact on the financial situation of many people so please give generously. If you would like someone to pick up your donation from your home, please email jane.kennett@googlemail.com.

The food bank officials thank all parishioners for their ongoing generosity to the foodbank.

On-line prayer and faith resources. A range of resources is given on our parish website stanthonyofpadua.org.uk/resources/.

Keeping in touch. We send a weekly *Bulletin* by email: please let us know if you would like to join our email list and forward the bulletin to anybody who may be interested. We have a *WhatsApp* group. Let Shalini Lalvani know (via the parish email address) if you would like to join, and follow us on [Facebook](#)

“Thank you”

To Ed for arranging the men’s night out. We hope it was a success!

To Nevin for digging the flower bed and to Maureen for planting flowers in the presbytery garden.

Parish meetings on Zoom. To access visit zoom.us/join and type in the ID number given below

	When	Zoom ID (and password if needed)
Women’s group	Monday evenings: Contact Catherine Mountford (staofpwomensgroup@gmail.com) for details	
Men’s group	Contact Dominic Vella (dominic.vella@cantab.net) for details	

Rotas

	This weekend	Next weekend
Vigil readers	Agnes Valencak	Nevin Vuddamalay
<u>Sunday Readers:</u> 8:30 am	Hilary Lappage	Jimmy Antony
10:00 am	Alex Thankachan	John Barker
Vigil Stewards	Jane and Mary	Mary and Jane
<u>Sunday Stewards:</u> 8:30 am	Mary and Hilary	Mary and Hilary
10:00 am	Josh and Ed	Nelia and Jane
Intercessions	Grey book	Grey book
Altar flowers	Shalani Lalvani	Lidia Molinska

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

ST ANTHONY OF PADUA FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS: Further to the delay in the date for “Freedom Day”, sadly we have had to postpone our feast day celebrations until September. However, we hope to have a post lockdown event (coffee and cake or a park picnic) in July. **Watch this space!**

LOVE MARSTON LOVE LIFE EVENT: Sunday 5th September at 3pm Mortimer Hall Park. [Tim Howles](#) is the main speaker and there will be a 'Caring for God's planet' theme to the whole event with a number of community stalls. Please direct any community groups to the Love Marston Love Life website (lovemarstonlovelife.wordpress.com) for details of how to book a stall.

SUNDAY PLUS

Take a break!

Everybody needs a holiday

by Mary Bell

Everybody needs a holiday and if we ever wanted proof of Jesus' humanity, this Gospel is it. His words to the disciples reveal his total understanding of what it means for people to be under stress, exhausted by their exertions. He knows they have had a gruelling

time trying to carry out his instructions: walking the roads from town to town as beggars with no money and with only one tunic, a pair of sandals and a stick. Their mission was to preach repentance to anyone who would listen, to anoint the sick and cast



out demons. Many times they must have encountered rejection. They have earned their holiday in a quiet place and he attempts to give them space to recuperate.

Alas, celebrity then was like it is now. Jesus is like a magnet, attracting all-comers. The crowds are there before them and it is a mark of Jesus's love of people and deep compassion that he does not send them away. He tends them like the Good Shepherd that he is because caring for all his followers is an essential part of his nature.

However, we should remember Our Lord's words whenever we feel guilty about resting. Jesus knew that people need a break from the rigours of life in order to be able to carry on with the important things. To remain quiet, to meditate, to do nothing at all is a God-given gift to the human spirit: "Come to me all you who labour and are burdened and I will give you rest."

Mary Bell is a grandmother and a retired teacher who continues to use her skills in the University of the Third Age.

Space in busy-ness

by Gráinne Treanor

We often imagine that life in the past was slower than it is today. Children strolled home from school and stayed home for the evening. Fewer people endured long commutes to work. Shops closed on Sundays, and there was a distinctive "Sunday feel" – quiet, unrushed, even reverent.

Today's Gospel tells us that even the disciples were so busy they had no time to eat, and Jesus told them they needed to retreat to some lonely place and rest for a while.

Some of us were forced into that situation with the arrival of Covid-19 in 2020. Yet despite the terrible circumstances, the break gave many of us the space in our "busy-ness" to reflect on what

mattered in life. Some of us vowed never to become so rushed again, even if that's easier said than done. Jesus reminds us in today's Gospel that we all need "some lonely place".

Gráinne Treanor is a mother of three and professional editor/proofreader who works from her home in the west of Ireland.

Loving Lord, I'm glad that you also knew what it was like to be achingly tired and desperate for a break. Help me to keep the balance between work and play.  Amen.

Food for the soul

by Sr Janet Fearnis FMDM

We'd just finished an extremely busy week in the Pastoral Centre: four consecutive school groups, their visits separated by the few hours in which all the rooms had to be cleaned and prepared for the next teenage invasion. However, the departure of the last group signalled the onset of a day reunion of more than 100 participants in the diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage. As I tiredly presented the latest visitors with coffee and biscuits, an elderly lady declared, "It must make such a lovely change to have people visit you!" Hah!

People and their various needs can be extraordinarily tiring. It's easy to imagine Jesus' exhaustion because of the constantly

demanding crowds who appeared whenever he did.

Even Jesus needed time for himself, to enjoy a few minutes of uninterrupted silence, confident that, for a few minutes at least, he could enjoy peace and quiet. If he sought food for his soul, how much more should I also make space in my busy-ness!

Sr Janet Fearnis is a Franciscan Missionary of the Divine Motherhood.

"Lord, teach us to step outside ourselves. Teach us to go out into the streets and manifest your love."

Pope Francis

Today:
Jeremiah 23:1-6
Ephesians 2:13-18
Mark 6:30-34

Monday:
Exodus 14:5-18
Matthew 12:38-42

Tuesday:
Exodus 14:21-15:1
Matthew 12:46-50

Wednesday:
Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15
Matthew 13:1-9

Thursday:
Song of Songs 3:1-4
John 1:1-2, 11-18

Friday:
Exodus 20:1-17
Matthew 13:18-23

Saturday:
Exodus 24:3-8
Matthew 13:24-30

Next Sunday:
2 Kings 4:42-44
Ephesians 4:1-6
John 6:1-15

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